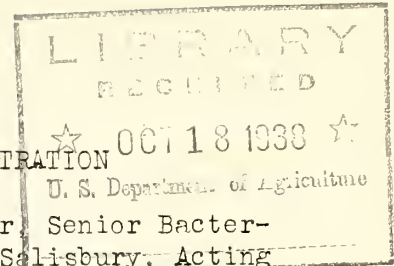


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CANNED FISH AND THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

A radio sketch presented by Dr. Albert C. Hunter, Senior Bacteriologist, Federal Food and Drug Administration; Morse Salisbury, Acting Director, Office of Information; and Josephine Hemphill, Radio Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Broadcast Tuesday, October 4, 1938, in the Department period of the National Farm and Home Program over 97 stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company.

--ooOoo--

BILL CRAGO:

And now, ladies and gentlemen, in just a few moments we shall hear from our Tuesday reporters, Josephine Hemphill and ----

JOSEPHINE HEMPHILL: (INTERRUPTING)

Mr. Crago, have you seen Mr. Salisbury? A sign on his office door says: "GONE FISHING. WILL BE BACK ANON." I'm so distressed!

CRAGO:

Gone fishing?

HEMPHILL:

Yes.

CRAGO:

He can't do that. He's scheduled to talk about canned salmon.

HEMPHILL:

I know it! He was to interview Dr. Albert C. Hunter, Senior Bacteriologist for the Federal Food and Drug Administration, and find out how the Government inspects salmon, shrimp, oysters, tuna fish, sardines -- Oh, I'm so distressed! Can you help me find Mr. Salisbury?

CRAGO: (NOBLY COMING TO THE RESCUE)

The Cragos have never failed a lady in distress. We shall find him. I have a new gadget here -- a little invention of my own -- a combination telescope, microphone, and -- and pen-wiper.

HEMPHILL:

Wonderful!

CRAGO:

Now I'll just press this button right here, and you'll be able to see --

HEMPHILL:

Look!

CRAGO:

And you'll be able to hear --

(over)

HEMPHILL:

Listen!

SALISBURY:

--- and she said to me, she said, "You'll live longer if you take a day off from work once in a while." So I said to her, I said, "All right, the first good day for fishing, you'll find me down on the Potomac River, in a fishing boat."

HEMPHILL: (ASIDE)

(Of all days, today!)

CRAGO: (ASIDE)

(Listen.)

SALISBURY:

And I'm mighty glad, Doctor Hunter, that you could take the day off to and go fishing with me.

DR. ALBERT C. HUNTER:

Glad you asked me. Good fishing weather, isn't it.

SALISBURY:

Fine. Tide's just right. We'll push off soon's the boy brings the bait. (EXPANSIVELY) I've always liked fishing. I remember the time -- 20 years ago -- when I was on the Columbia River, fishing for salmon. It was a day just like this -- and were those fellows biting! Um! Um! I caught a salmon -- Chinook -- that weighed at least one hundred and -- at least one hundred and -- (CATCHING HIMSELF JUST IN TIME) Say, you ever fish for salmon?

HUNTER:

Why, I've made seven or eight official trips, to check up on the salmon pack. As a matter of fact, I've never seen a salmon that weighed over 75 pounds -- myself.

SALISBURY:

Oh. . . . Maybe they grew bigger in the old days.

HEMPHILL:

("Grew bigger in the old days!" He's -- daffy.)

HUNTER:

Now I have seen tuna that weighed over a hundred pounds. Lots of 'em. Just last summer, up in Portland, Maine, I saw a tuna that weighed around 600 pounds. They were cutting it up with a cross-cut saw. Do you know the North American record for giant blue-fin tuna was broken just last month?

SALISBURY:

No, I didn't know that.

HUNTER:

Yes, a young fellow up in Shelburne, Nova Scotia, by the name of Alfred Kenney, caught a fish that weighed 864 pounds. Took him four hours and 30 minutes to bring it to boat.

SALISBURY:

I'll bet that was the thrill of a lifetime. Say now! Maybe it was a tuna I caught up there in Oregon -- 20 years ago. Your memory gets a little foggy as you grow older.

HEMPHILL:

(Fog-gy!)

HUNTER:

Speaking of records, the tuna fishermen on the West Coast smashed all their records one day last July. In one day -- from one morning to the next morning -- they brought in 2,250 tons of tuna fish. At San Diego.

SALISBURY:

How much is a catch like that worth?

HUNTER:

Around \$240,000.

SALISBURY:

Pretty good -- for one day's work. By the way, Doctor Hunter, if you don't mind talking shop, what was the salmon pack last year? In number of cans.

HUNTER:

Why last year it was around 350 million cans.

SALISBURY:

Of course all this salmon was inspected, periodically, as part of your routine work.

HUNTER:

Yes, our men were kept pretty busy, inspecting the salmon pack in Alaska, Washington State, and the Columbia River areas. 1937 was good year for the salmon canners. We didn't have to make any seizures at all.

SALISBURY:

Good. Who, or what, is responsible for this improvement?

HUNTER:

Well, for one thing, the canners tried harder than ever to get the salmon delivered promptly to the canneries. And then the weather was good -- not too hot.

SALSIBURY:

Have you checked upon tuna canneries lately?

HUNTER:

Just last year. Funny thing about tuna -- most of the fish are caught off the coast of Mexico and Central America -- but last year, for some reason or other, they began running off the coast of Oregon.

SALISBURY: (ALMOST BELIEVES IT HIMSELF)

Say! Maybe it was a tuna I caught up there 20 years ago!

HEMPHILL: (ASIDE)

(Why, he really believes it!)

CRAGO: (ASIDE)

Sounds like it.

SALISBURY:

What about canned mackerel -- and sardines?

HUNTER:

Pretty good record. I checked up on the Maine sardine pack this last summer.

SALISBURY:

Let's see now. What else do you inspect -- oysters, sardines --

HUNTER:

Yes, oysters, sardines, crab, shrimp.

SALISBURY:

The shrimp pack's certainly been on the up and up -- the past few years, hasn't it.

HUNTER:

Yes, ever since Congress enacted the Seafood Amendment, providing for Federal inspection.

SALISBURY:

As I remember, that Amendment was requested by the shrimp canners themselves -- and by consumer representatives.

HUNTER:

That's right. More than nine-tenths of all the canned shrimp you buy nowadays is packed under continuous Federal inspection. In these plants there's a Government inspector around all the time -- supervising every step of the shrimp canning.

SALISBURY:

Both canners and consumers benefit from that kind of supervision.

HUNTER:

They certainly do.

SALISBURY:

You people in the Food and Drug Administration have a real job.

all right. With the small force you have, I don't see how you manage to get around to all the places -- to all the canneries, packing plants, food factories -- and so on. Must take some hustling!

HUNTER:

You're right about that. But so far it's the only way we've found to be sure the public gets a good, wholesome, food supply -- and that's our mission in life.

SALISBURY:

Well, I guess that's -- Here comes our bait. Right here, boy. Thanks. I'll take the rod and reel.

HUNTER:

You like a rod and reel better than a hand line?

SALISBURY:

Why I think there's more sport to fishing with a rod and reel. Won't surprise me a bit if we come back with a whale of a catch today!

HUNTER:

I'd like to catch a nice mess of bluefish.

SALISBURY: (EXPANSIVELY)

We'll get some blues -- and some rocks, too -- and some stripers.

HUNTER:

How about a few croakers, and trout?

SALISBURY:

Sure! We'll get croakers, and trout too. Everything's in our favor. The tide's just right and there's a full moon. Ready to shove off?

HUNTER:

Let 'er go, pardner. I'm ready.

HEMPHILL:

"So they sailed away. . ." Thank you, Mr. Crago. . . .
I said Thank you -- for finding Mr. Salisbury.

CRAGO: (PAYING NO ATTENTION)

Josephine, they've got the wrong kind of bait! Now if you're going to catch bluefish, you've got to have --

HEMPHILL:

(It must be the full moon.) Mr. Crago, put away your combination telescope and windshield-wiper. The show must go on.

CRAGO:

All right -- but with thatkind of bait they won't catch any bluefish. Mark my words! Ladies and gentlemen, you have just overheard

a conversation between Dr. Albert C. Hunter, Senior Bacteriologist for the Federal Food and Drug Administration, and Morse Salisbury, Acting Director of Information, United States Department of Agriculture. . . . Well look who's here. Wallace, I thought you'd left the room.

KADDERLY:

I just came in. What's that funny-looking contraption you've got there?

HEMPHILL:

Wallace -- it's a wonderful new invention!

CRAGO:

Miss Hemphill, he wouldn't understand, would he? "

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HEMPHILL:

No, I suppose he wouldn't.

CRAGO:

Wallace, will you introduce the next speaker?

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